



Southern Connecticut
State University

February 27, 2009

The State of Connecticut General Assembly
Committee on Public Health

RE: SB 981 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC
EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN SCHOOLS

Dear Committee on Public Health:

The faculty of the Athletic Training Education Program at Southern Connecticut State University are writing to express our support of SB 981. This bill, which is up for public hearing improves the accessibility and availability of automatic external defibrillators in schools.

We are asking you to vote favorably for SB 981 based on the reasons outlined below:

1. The importance of being properly prepared when emergencies arise cannot be stressed enough.
2. Emergency situations may arise at **anytime**. Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the U.S. and can affect healthy individuals of all ages.
3. **Expedient action** must be taken in order to provide the best possible care to a victim in an emergency and/or with a life threatening condition.
4. The **development and implementation** of an emergency action plan will help ensure that the best care will be provided.
5. Survival may hinge on how well trained and prepared responders are in an emergency situation. Access to **early defibrillation** is critical to saving lives.

It is important to note that SB 981 will not require school boards to hire additional personnel to comply with this law and local and regional boards of education may accept gifts, grants, and donations designated for the purchase, maintenance, and training in the use of automatic external defibrillators.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rothbard, MS, ATC
Assistant Professor

Charles Davis, Med, ATC
Assistant Professor

Corey Hannah, MS, ATC
Assistant Professor